(ii) Integrated Development of Coastal Aquaculture.

(iii) Providing Fishing Harbour Facilities at Major and Minor Ports and Fish Landing Centres.

(iv) Development of Freshwater Aquaculture

(v) Training and Extension

(vi) National Welfare of Fishermen

(c) The Central funds released to Orissa for the above referred Schemes during the last three years is as follows:-

| Years | Rs. in lakhs |
|---|---|
| 1996-97 | 404.71 |
| 1997-98 | 287.75 |
| 1998-99 | 30.67 |

All these Schemes are being continued in the remaining years of the Ninth Plan.

**Deep Sea Fishing**

2326. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister ot AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any step to ban deep sea fishing by foreign vessels and to cancel all the licences issued to foreign vessels;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations of the Murari Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) As per the recommendations of the Committee to Review Deep Sea Fishing Policy, the Deep Sea Fishing Policy of 1991 has been rescinded. Under the Charter Scheme, no permits are presently valid. No renewal, extension or new licences have since been granted under Joint Venture and Lease Schemes. Cases of Joint Venture and leasing, where violations of the MZI Act, Rules or terms and conditions were reported, were referred to the Ministry of Law, Justice and Company Affairs. On their advice, permits for two vessels under Lease Scheme have been cancelled.

(c) The details are given in enclosed statement *(see* below).

**STATEMENT**

*Recommendations of the Review Committee on Deep Sea Fishing Policy and Action Taken*

**Recommendation No. 1:** All permits issued for fishing by joint venture/ charter/lease/test fishing should immediately be cancelled subject to legal process as may required.

*Action Taken:* Case of Joint Venture (JV) and Leasing, where violations of the Act, Rules or Terms and Conditions were reported, were referred to M/o Law, Justice and Company Affairs. On their advice, permits for two vessels under leasing have been cancelled. Under the scheme of Charter, no permits are valid.

**Recommendation No. 2:** No renewal, extension or new licenses/permits be issued in future for finishing to joint venture/charter/lease/test fishing vessels.

*Action Taken:* No new permits/extension or renewal of permits/ permission under Joint Venture, Leasing, Test Fishing and Charter have been issued.

**Recommendation No. 3.:** All licences/permits for fishing may be made public documents and copy thereof made available for inspection in the office of the registered authority.

*Action Taken:* Fishery Survey of India (FSI), Mumbai has been designated as the authority to keep the copies of all valid permits/permissions under JV, Leasing and Chartering as public documents. The copies of permits/permissions were provided to FSI for the same.

**Recommendation No. 4:** The areas already being exploited or which may be exploited in the medium term by fishermen operating traditional craft or mechanised vessels below 20m size should not be permitted for exploitation by any vessels above 20 m. length except currently operated Indian vessels which may operate in the current areas for only three years subject to the recommendations 1 & 7.

*Action Taken:* Action is being taken.

**Recommendation No. 5:** Since the Indian mechanised boats below 20m size have the capacity to fish in depths up to about 70—90m on the west coast, the distance from the shore represented by 150m depth line should be out of bounds for all vessels of more than 20m length except vessels mentioned at para 4. Where the 150m depth zone is less than 100 nautical miles from the shore, the distance up to 100 nautical miles should be reserved for Indian vessels less than 20m length. On the east coast, starting from Kanyakumari, Indian vessels below 20m size would have exclusive access upto 100m depth or 50 nautical miles from the shore whichever is farther except relaxation in Para 4. The depth zone would also be defined by coordinates indicating distance from the shore. Distance will be determined by National Hydrographic Office/ Coast Guard/Fishery Survey of India.

*Action Taken:* Action has been initiated to defined depth zones by coordinates.

**Recommendation No. 6:** In regard to Andaman & Nicobar and Lakshadweep groups is islands, a distance of 50 nautical miles from the shore would be reserved exclusively for Indian vessels below 20m length with provision at para 4. Further, if so required, the limit would be defined taking into account the need to keep waters between islands reserved exclusively for Indian vessels, even if some portions fall beyond the limit of 50 nautical miles.

*Action Taken:* As under Recommendation No. 5 above.

**Recommendation No. 7:** In the area open to the vessels above 20m length, resource specific vessels for tuna and tuna like fishes, squids and cuttle fish, deep sea fin-fishes in mid-water or pelagic regions and oceanic tuna may be allowed for exploitation by tuna long lining, tuna purse seining, squid jigging and mid-water trawling, provided these are de facto Indian owned registered vessels. The Indian owners should account for at least 51% debt as well as equity.

*Action Taken:* An Expert Group has been set up to formulate Comprehensive Policy for Marine fisheries. The terms of reference of the Expert Group *inter alia* are to suggest the number of resource specific vessels to be deployed in the Exclusive Economic Zone of the country.

**Recommendation No. 8:** The fleet size for different fishing grounds may be fixed taking into account the maximum sustainable yield and the need for conservation of resources.

*Action Taken:* As under Recommendation No. 7 above.

**Recommendation No. 9:** In order to conserve fishery resources in our waters, to protect fishermen and to reduce conflicts in the sea, deep sea fishing regulations' should be enacted by the Parliament after consulting the fishing community.

*Action Taken:* Action has been initiated to formulate a legislation for regulation of fishing by Indian owned vessels in EEZ.

**Recommendation No. 10:** For preventing conflicts between the traditional, small mechanised, larger deep sea vessels strict vigilance to be exercised by the Coast Guard. To attain this objective the Coast Guard should be strengthened, expanded, upgraded technically with the state-of-the-art system of navigation, surveillance and weaponary and properly tasked to prevent poaching by foreign vessels and observance of zone restriction by indigenous vessels. In case Coast Guard is not able to perform the task then by some other agency, State or Central, would be identified to ensure that these vessels excluded from specific areas do not violate prohibitions.

*Action Taken:* The Coast Guard is being assisted under a Central Sector Scheme to procure communication equipments for monitoring operation of fishing vessels in the Indian EEZ.

**Recommendation No. 11**: The Government should take active steps as well as make finances available for upgradation of technological skills and equipment used by the traditional fishermen, for mechanised boats and die Indian deep sea fishing fleet so that each can effectively fish in the areas reserved for it by law or in practice. Duty concessions and concessional finance should be made available for both navigational as well as fishing equipment aimed at competence upgradation to the state-of-the-art level to all me three categories with priority to the traditional sector.

*Action Taken:* The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Schemes for motorisation of traditional crafts by providing subsidy towards the cost of engines and reimbursement of central excise duty on HSD oil to mechanised boats below 20m length.

**Recommendation No. 12.:** Traditional and small mechanised sector should be assisted by adequate regular supply of fuel and by providing HSD and kerosene and by providing subsidy taking into account the benefits given to deep sea fishing vessels.

*Action Taken:* As under Recommendation No. 11 above.

**Recommendation No. 13.:** All types of marine fisheries should come under one Ministry. The Government should also consider setting up a Fishery Authority of India to function in the manner in which such authorities set up in other countries function and to be responsible for formulation of policies as well as their implementiation.

*Action Taken:* All subjects concerning fisheries, except processing, exports and education have been transferred to Department of Animal Husbandry & Dairying in the Ministry of Agriculture.

**Recommendation No. 14:** The Fishery Survey of India should also be technically upgraded by induction of the modern technology and equipment so that it can identify and map the location of all types of fish, study impact of different technologies and ecological changes. There should be proper coordination and cooperation between die National Remote Sensing Agencies and the Fishery Survey of India for this purpose.

*Action Taken:* The Fishery Survey of India (FSI) is being assisted through a Central Sector Scheme and action has been initiated on the proposal of FSI for acquisition of new survey vessels.

**Recommendation No. 15**: The Government should give priority to the creation of the infrastructure needed for preventing wastage of fishery resources which is occurring through throwing away by-catch. This may be achieved by providing a chain of cold storages, ice factories, fish processing facilities, fish meal and feed manufacturing units for value addition to the products of fishermen and their cooperatives.

*Action Taken:* The Department of Food Processing Industries is implementing schemes for creation of infrastructure for cold chain and processing of fish.

**Recommendation No. 16:** Infrastructure facilities such as fishing harbours for the existing and modern upgraded craft along east and west coasts as well as in island groups of Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands may be created on priority basis.

*Action Taken:* The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing Scheme for construction of fishing harbours and fish landing centres.

The entire coastline including that of the islands is covered under the Scheme.

**Recommendation No. 17:** Fishermen/fisherwomen and their cooperatives may be provided with financial assistance for upgradation and acquisition of larger vessels for marketing and other related activities.

*Action Taken:* As under Recommendation No. 7 above.

**Recommendation No. 18:** The Government should give priority to training fishermen/fisherwomen in handling new equipment, larger vessels and new fishing techniques besides fish handling and processing aspects.

*Action Taken:* The Ministry of Agriculture is implementing a Central Sector Scheme for providing training to fishermen and fisherwomen for skill upgradation.

**Recommendation No. 19:** Government should take effective steps to tackle the menace of pollutants/ effluents/sewage let out by industries which affects marine life adversely.

*Action Taken:* The Ministry of Environment and Forests are taking care of this aspect.

**Recommendation No. 20:** Government should take a decision on the recommendations of the Committee within a period of six months.

*Action Taken:* Action taken on recommendations are at different stages of implementation.

**Recommendation No. 21:** The deep sea fishing policy should be revised periodically say every 3-5 years.

*Action Taken:* An Expert Group has been constituted to formulate a Comprehensive Policy for Marine fisheries.

**Emphasis on quality of food items**

2327. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the need to harmonize domestic standards with international standards as the international trade now is Agricultural goods is increasingly being dominated by concerns of quality to safeguard human health;